

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189959  
ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-09 L-03 TRSE-00 EB-08  
OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/LIC-17/DTGREGORY:RLW  
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:REDDINGTON  
NASA/LIC-17/BGGARNER  
NASA/TN/CATAYLOR  
NASA/GG/HSKUPPERMAN  
NASA/LIC-17/WGBASTEDO  
EA/ANZ:CHTWINING  
L/EA:SORLINS

-----107481 272053Z /61

P 272035Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 189959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION FROM PETROL TAX

REF: CANBERRA 4398

1. DEPARTMENT AND NASA STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT PETROL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION BE PRESSED AT HIGHER LEVELS.
2. BELIEVE CASE AS STATED REFTEL ACCURATE . HOWEVER, AS A FALL-BACK, AN ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT SINCE EXCISE TAX IN THIS CASE MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS A SALES TAX IT COMES WITHIN THE EXEMPTION CONTAINED IN PARA 9 (2).

3. PER NASA RECORDS, NASA HAS PROBABLY PAID MORE THAN  
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HALF-MILLION DOLLARS IN AUSTRALIAN PETROL EXCISE TAX SINCE BEGINNING OF OPERATIONS THERE. HOWEVER, FORMAL PROCEDURES FOR CONTROL OF PETROL WERE NOT IMPLEMENTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 1974 AND RECOVERY OF TAXES PAID PRIOR TO THAT TIME IS THEREFORE DOUBTFUL.

4. BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 1974 AND MAY 31, 1978, NASA PAID

DOLLARS A107,653 IN PETROL TAX (APPROX. DOLLARS 122,000 US).  
APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS A30,000 PER YEAR WILL BE PAID IN  
FUTURE UNLESS REMEDIES ARE SOUGHT.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY KEEP DEPARTMENT AND NASA INFORMED  
OF DISCUSSIONS AND ESTIMATE LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE  
RESOLUTION. IF IN POST'S JUDGMENT PRESSURE AT THIS  
TIME WOULD ONLY RESULT IN NEGATIVE STANCE, PLEASE  
ADVISE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, TAX AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRACKING STATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE189959  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** 17/DTGREGORY:RLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780308-1086  
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**Office:** ORIGIN NASA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 CANBERRA 4398  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**Subject:** REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION FROM PETROL TAX  
**TAGS:** TSPA, EFIN, AS, US, NASA  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014